

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE****APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING ACCESS TO A DATA****5                   STREAM BY A PLURALITY OF USERS AT A SAME TIME**

10                   An apparatus and method for providing access to a  
data stream by a plurality of users at a same time. The  
apparatus and method include a data stream splitter  
manager which listens for new connections from client  
15                   devices. When a new connection from a client device is  
identified, the data stream splitter manager generates a  
pseudo-terminal for the client device and adds the client  
device and pseudo-terminal information to a data stream  
splitter table. In addition, if a data stream splitter  
20                   is not already established for handling data transfer  
between the data stream splitter manager and a requested  
resource, a new data stream splitter may be generated to  
handle the data transfer. Thereafter, the data stream  
splitter searches the data stream splitter table for  
25                   client devices participating in a session for sharing the  
system resource. Data from a data stream associated with  
the shared system resource is sent by the data stream  
splitter to the pseudo-terminals associated with the  
30                   client devices. Data from the client devices is sent to  
the pseudo-terminals and then to the data stream via the  
data stream splitter. In this way, each client device  
involved in the session has full access to the shared  
system resource and output from the shared system  
resource is provided to each of the client devices  
involved in the session.